UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22916
9 August 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 689 (1991), in which the Council approved my report of 5 April 1991 (S/22454), and in particular to its paragraph 13 concerning the strength of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). I also refer to my report of 12 June 1991 to the Council (S/22692), in which I indicated my intention to undertake a further review of UNIKOM's strength and to make appropriate recommendations.

In the course of that review, Major-General Greindl, the Chief Military Observer of UNIKOM, has recommended that the following adjustments be made in the Mission, with a view to achieving greater efficiency and economy:

- reduce the number of military observers from 300 to 250;

- reduce the size of the medical unit;

- consolidate and reassign the tasks performed by the logistic units, with a small reduction in their strength;

- reduce the strength of the engineer unit from the present level of 293 to 85, with a subsequent reduction to 50 after the completion of work in support of the Boundary Demarcation Commission.

I have considered the above recommendations and have found them to be well-based. The situation within UNIKOM's area of operations remains calm, the number of border incidents and violations has decreased and the Mission continues to receive the cooperation of all concerned in the area. The eventual reduction of some 45 per cent in the Mission's strength will produce appreciable financial savings.

Accordingly, it is my intention to approach the troop-contributing countries in order to effect these adjustments as quickly as possible but in such a way as to minimize administrative and personal inconvenience for all

concerned. Needless to say, I will continue to monitor the situation closely and revert, if necessary, to the Council on the question of the Mission's strength.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR